

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 150263
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W: HWEINLAND:LMG
APPROVED BY AF/ CHARROP
AF/S:DKEOGH
AF/C:LDJUN R
S/S-O :SVALERGA
AF/W K

-----047571 140457Z /13

P R 132313Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150263

EXDIS, CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, PGOV, NI

SUBJECT:OBASANJO LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER
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PAGE 02 STATE 150263

1. NIGERIAN EMBASSY DELIVERED ON JUNE 12 A LETTER FROM
HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO TO PRESIDENT CARTER DATED JUNE 1.
AN ANSWER IS BEING PREPARED AND WILL BE SENT BY
SEPTTEL. TEXT OF THE LETTER FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: DEAR PRESIDENT CARTER, FURTHER TO MY LETTER OF

THE 20TH OF APRIL OF THIS YEAR, AND YOUR REPLY OF THE 18TH OF MAY WHICH I HAVE GREATLY APPRECIATED, I AM DELIGHTED THAT THE MOMENTUM THUS FAR ESTABLISHED IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS HAS BEEN MAINTAINED THROUGH THE USEFUL MEETING OF OFFICIALS FROM OUR TWO COUNTRIES THAT TOOK PLACE RECENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE PRESENT LETTER, HOWEVER, IS TO EXPRESS TO YOU OUR GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT THE EXTREMELY OMINOUS AND DISQUIETING DEVELOPMENTS ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AS A WHOLE SINCE YOUR LAST VISIT, ABOUT WHICH, FROM ALL INDICATIONS, YOU ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED.

FIRST, WE SEEM NOWHERE NEARER A SOLUTION TO THE LONG-STANDING PROBLEMS OF INDEPENDENCE IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA

AND, IN MY VIEW, TIME IS NOT ON OUR SIDE IF THE CONTINUING TRAGEDIES IN THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIVES AND THE MASSIVE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY MUST BE HALTED. IT SEEMS TO US IMPERATIVE, THEREFORE, THAT AMERICA'S POSITIVE ROLE IN THE TWO AREAS MENTIONED ABOVE SHOULD BE KEPT UP IF A DANGEROUS IMPASSE MUST BE AVOIDED, WITH ALL THE GENERALISED DISILLUSIONMENT THAT WOULD THEN OCCUR.

BUT WHAT IS PERHAPS EVEN MORE DISTURBING, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE SECURITY SITUATION IN AFRICA HAS SUDDENLY
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TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORSE IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, AND WE IN AFRICA HAVE NOW BEGUN TO ASK OURSELVES WHETHER INTERESTS ALIEN TO THE CONTINENT HAVE NOW DECIDED ONCE AGAIN TO RE-COLONISE AFRICA.

ARMED WITH YOUR VERY COMPREHENSIVE SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND WHEN YOU REFLECT DISPASSIONATELY OVER THE CURRENT EVENTS IN AFRICA: WHETHER IN WESTERN SAHARA, TCHAD, DJIBOUTI, OR ZAIRE, WHERE THE FRENCH LEGION ARE NOW ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN COMBAT ACTIVITIES; OR WHETHER IN ANGOLA OR IN ETHIOPIA WHERE CUBAN/RUSSIAN INTERVENTION IS EQUALLY CLEARLY IN EVIDENCE, - THE OVERALL PICTURE IS CERTAINLY MORE THAN ENOUGH CAUSE FOR ANXIETY. BUT THE MOST RECENT CASE OF ZAIRE IS PERHAPS THE MOST DISTURBING, CONSIDERING THE IMPETUOUS HASTE WITH WHICH THE WESTERN POWERS RUSHED TO INTERVENE MILITARILY AND TO UNDERScore AFRICA'S HELPLESSNESS, IN A SITUATION THAT CALLED FOR UTMOST CAUTION AND RESTRAINT. CONSEQUENTLY, THE RESULT AS WE NOW KNOW IT WAS AN ENORMOUS LOSS OF LIVES THAT COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF ONLY GOOD SENSE PREVAILED AND NEGOTIATIONS WERE EMPLOYED.

BUT MORE OMINOUS STILL, YOUR EXCELLENCY, ARE THE RECENT MOVES IN PARIS AND ELSEWHERE, OF WHICH YOU ARE OF COURSE FULLY AWARE, TO FORGE NEW INSTRUMENTS AND DEVISE NEW METHODS FOR NAKED AGGRESSION, AND TO RE-COLONISE AFRICA, UNDER THE GUISE OF A COLLECTIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENT EMBRACING A FEW HAND-PICKED COLLABORATORS ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. WE ARE MOST DISTURBED BY THESE DEVELOPMENTS, AND BY ALL OTHER ATTEMPTS TO DESTABILISE AFRICA, BE THEY FROM THE EAST OR FROM THE WEST, BECAUSE AFRICA'S GREATEST AMBITION IS TO BE LEFT ALONE TO SETTLE HER OWN INTERNAL DISPUTES HER OWN WAY, AND TO DEVELOP HER NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE WELL-BEING OF HER PEOPLES, OF COURSE WITH THE COOPERATION OF ALL WELL-MEANING AND GENUINE PARTNERS THE WORLD OVER.

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THESE ARE CONTINENTAL AMBITIONS THAT WILL NEVER BE ACHIEVED IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, IF FORCES BEYOND THE CONTINENT SHOULD MAKE THE REALISATION OF OUR DREAMS A FUTILITY. WE WILL RESIST SUCH MOVES BY ALL MEANS.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMARK HERE THAT MOST OF THE TEETHING PROBLEMS OF AFRICA THAT HAVE BEEN SO SERIOUSLY AGGRAVATED BY FOREIGN INTERVENTION ARE PRIMARILY OF A SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTER, WHICH ARE BOUND TO DISAPPEAR WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME. IT IS IN THESE AREAS THAT ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO AFRICA TO ENSURE STABILITY AND LASTING PEACE.

I HAVE WRITTEN AT SUCH LENGTH AND IN SUCH DETAIL, IN ORDER THAT YOU MAY BE LEFT IN NO DOUBT AT ALL ABOUT OUR DEEP CONCERN WITH THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN AFRICA, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO PEACE AND STABILITY, IN THE HOPE THAT YOU WILL DO ALL THAT LIES IN YOUR POWER TO STEM THE MENACING TIDE OF AFRICAN RE-COLONISATION UNDER THE GUISE OF COLLECTIVE DEFENSE FOR AFRICA.

FOR THE REST, MR. PRESIDENT, PLEASE PERMIT ME TO EXPRESS TO YOU OUR VERY BEST WISHES FOR YOUR GOOD HEALTH, AND FOR THE PEACE, HAPPINESS AND CONTINUED PROSPERITY OF THE GOOD PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

YOUR MOST SINCERELY/LT-GENERAL OLUSEGUN OBASANJO

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HIS EXCELLENCY,
PRESIDENT JAMES EARL CARTER,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.,
U.S.A.

UNQUOTE.

CHRISTOPHER

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PAGE 01 STATE 150263
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:EUR/WE:MCLISSFELT
APPROVED BY:EUR/WE:MCLISSFELT
EUR:MPARRIS
S/S-O:MFM

-----066731 151245Z /41

R 150530Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUDKFDQ/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0000
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150263

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 150263 SENT ACTION LAGOS INFO PRETORIA
CAPE TOWN MAPUTO GABORONE PARIS LUSAKA BONN DAR ES SALAAM
LONDON BRUSELS KINSHASA OTTAWA USUN NEW YORK JUN 13.
QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150263

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UNQUOTE.

CHRISTOPER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: HW EINLAND:LMG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780247-0986
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From: STATE
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780663/aaaaccqi.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN SS
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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2367278
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OBASANJO LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: PPDC, PGOV, NI, (CARTER, JIMMY), (OBASANJO, OLUSEGUN)
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fcb6bc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014